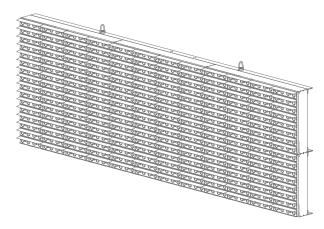


AlphaEclipse RoadStar Sign Installation Instructions



(For the most recent update, go to http://www.adaptivedisplays.com/support/eclipse)



		INSTALLATION CHECKLIST	
Done?	#	Description	Reference
	1	For a sign using a wireless transceiver, conduct a site survey to determine where to locate the wireless transceiver that will send messages to the sign.	Contact Adaptive Technical Support.
	2	Assemble multiple sections.	"Sign sections" on page 9. "Identifier label" on page 12
	3	Mount the sign sections to a superstructure able to withstand live loads and comply with all national and local codes.	"Mechanical installation" on page 14.
	4	Connect the cabling and wiring between each section.	"Multiple section sign assembly and wiring" on page 16.
	5	Determine sign-to-sign connection method to be used (multiple sign installation only): Master/Secondary Master Master/Slave	"Sign-to-sign connections" on page 25. "Serial address of a sign" on page 34.
	6	Connect sign-to-sign communication wire (multiple sign installation only).	"Sign-to-sign connections" on page 25.
	7	Determine sign-to-computer connection method to be used: Wired (RS485): sign serial address Modem: sign serial address Wireless transceiver: sign serial address Fiber optic cable: sign serial address	"Computer-to-sign connections" on page 28.
	8	For a sign using a wired (RS485) or a fiber optic cable, connect <i>sign-to-computer</i> communication wire.	"Computer-to-sign connections" on page 28.
	9	Install temperature probe (optional).	"Temperature probe mounting (optional)" on page 19.
	10	Connect power and ground to the sign.	"Electrical installation" on page 21.

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Introduction

Revision history

Revision	Date	Notes
9717-5001	March 11, 2005	First release.

Related documentation

Part #	Manual title	Description
9708-8081	AlphaNET Version 3.0 User Manual	Explains the software used to create and send messages to the sign.

4 Introduction

Safety

Warnings and cautions

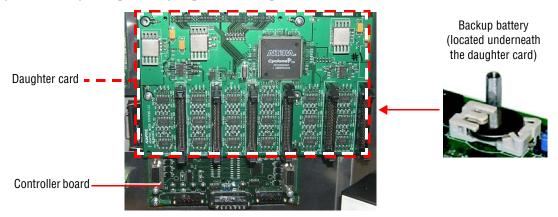


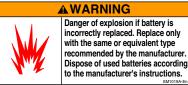
Other warnings and cautions are posted in appropriate locations throughout this manual.

Battery backup

In the event of power loss, backup batteries in an AlphaEclipse RoadStar sign provide power in order to maintain time.

A backup battery is located on the top of a sign's controller board under the daughter card (see below). The backup battery should only be replaced by a qualified Adaptive technician:







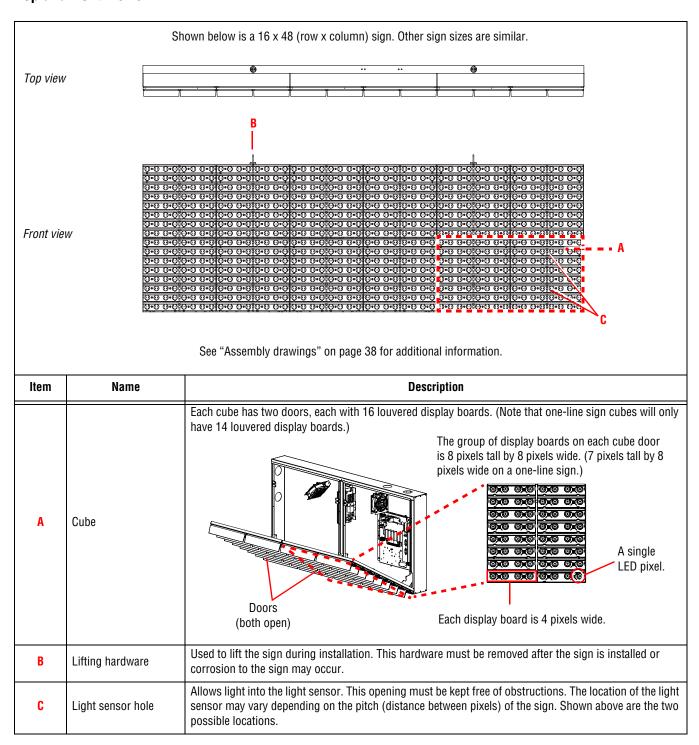


Safety 5

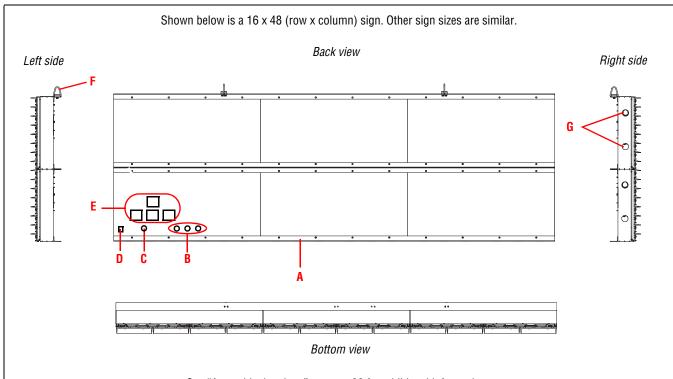
Equipment overview

Description

Top and front views



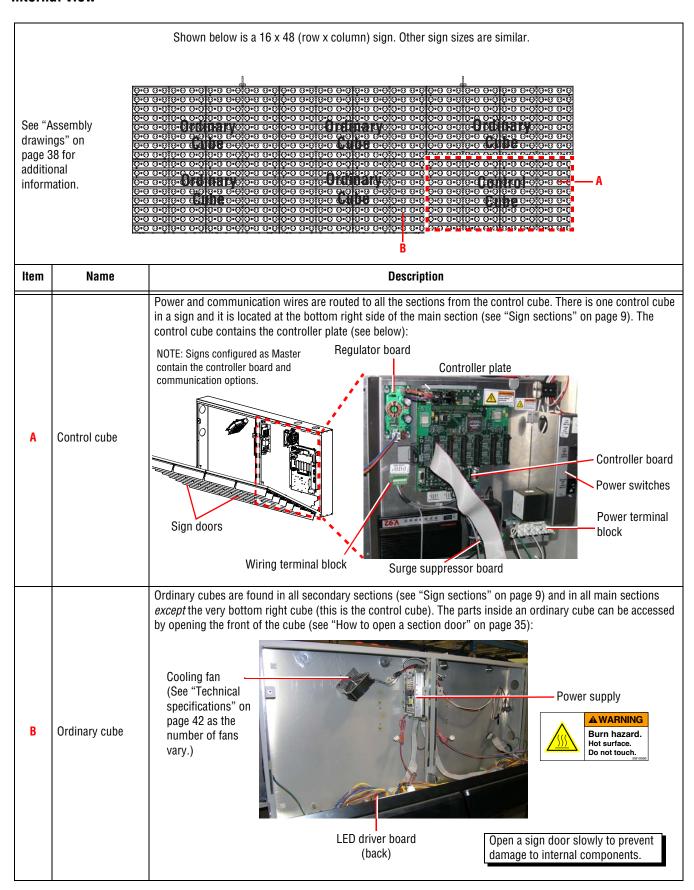
Back, side, and bottom views



See	"∆ssemhlv	drawinge"	on nage	38 for	additional	information.
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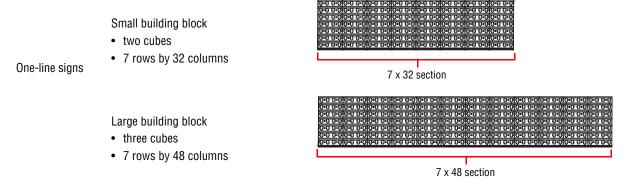
Item	Name	Description
A	Section support frame	Each section is attached to a support frame:
В	Communications conduit holes	7/8-inch conduit holes for communication wires. (Remove hole plugs prior to use.)
C	Power conduit hole	7/8-inch conduit hole for power wires. (Remove hole plugs prior to use.)
D	Ground lug	Grounding point for earth ground. See "Ground the sign" on page 22.
E	Equipment labels	Section label, sign label, identifier label, and serial address label containing information about the sign. Sign sections will contain one or more of these labels depending on whether the section is a main or a secondary section. See "Equipment identification" on page 10.
F	Lifting hardware	Used to lift the sign during installation. This hardware must be removed after the sign is installed or corrosion to the sign may occur.
G	Wireway connection holes	Used to route power and communication wires between each LED module.

Internal view

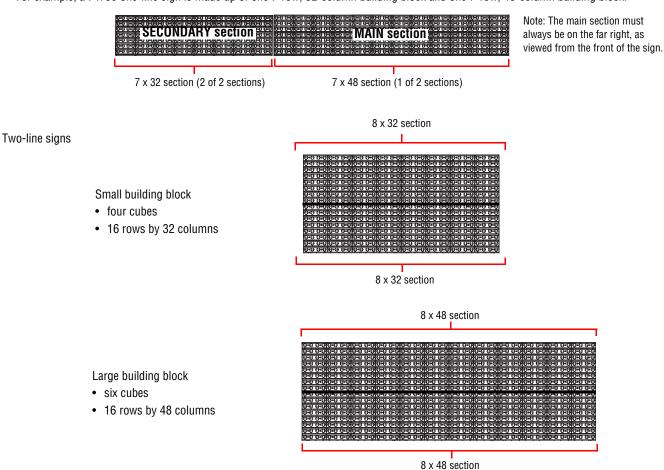


Sign sections

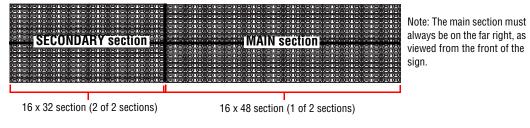
All sign sizes are made up of one or more building blocks, called sections. The right-most section is always the main section (1 of X number of sections); all others are secondary sections.



For example, a 7 x 80 one-line sign is made up of one 7-row, 32-column building block and one 7-row, 48-column building block:



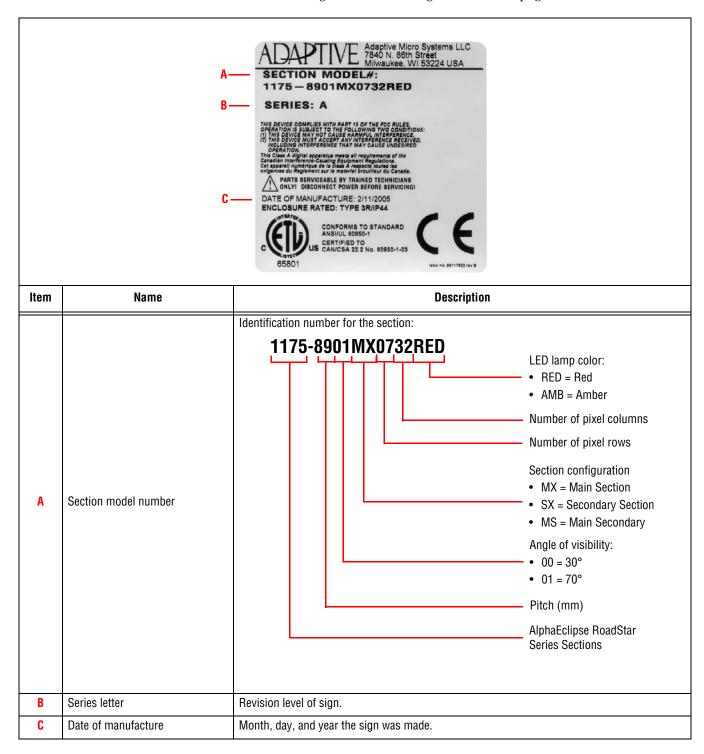
For example, a 16 x 80 two-line sign is made up of one 16-row, 32-column building block and one 16-row, 48-column building block:



Equipment identification

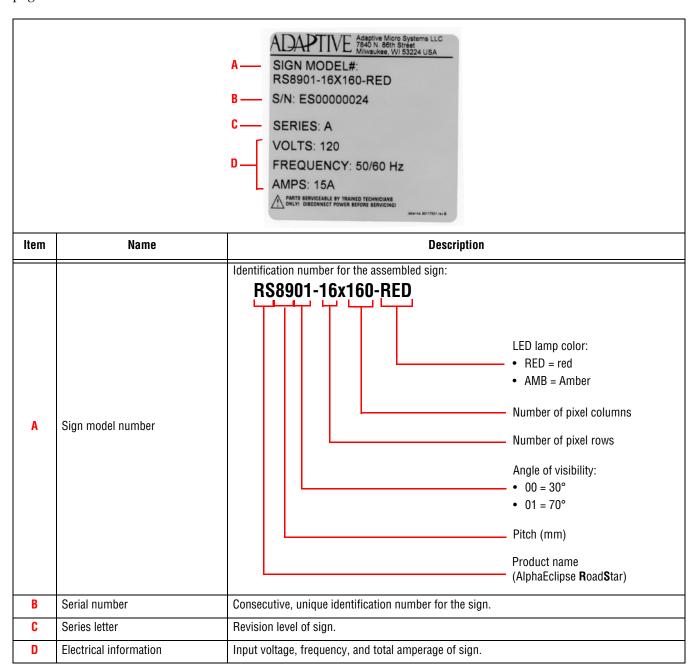
Section label

Section labels are located on the back of each sign section. See "Sign sections" on page 9.



Sign label

Sign labels are located on each main section, one on the outside and one on the inside. See "Sign sections" on page 9.



Identifier label

Identifier labels are located on the back of each sign section near the section label. See "Sign sections" on page 9.



Temperature protection

If the temperature inside of the left-most or right-most cube exceeds $100^{\circ}F$ (+/- $7^{\circ}F$) or $38^{\circ}C$ (+/- $4^{\circ}C$), the cube's fans will start. When the temperature falls below $80^{\circ}F$ (+/- $10^{\circ}F$) or $27^{\circ}C$ (+/- $6^{\circ}C$), the fans will stop.

The fans do not draw in outside air. They are used for recirculating air within the sign cubes.

If the power supply ambient temperature reaches $194^{\circ}F$ (+/- $9^{\circ}F$) or $90^{\circ}C$ (+/- $5^{\circ}C$), the power supply will shut down.

Equipment symbols



Chassis ground



Power (I = On, O = Off)

Preventing electrostatic discharge damage



This equipment contains components that may be damaged by "static electricity", or electrostatic discharge. To prevent this from happening, be sure to follow the guidelines in Adaptive Tech Memo 00-0005, "Preventing Electrostatic Discharge (ESD) Damage," available on our Web site at http://www.adaptivedisplays.com.

EMI compliance

This equipment has been tested and found to comply with the limits for a Class A digital device, pursuant to Part 15 of the FCC Rules. These limits are designed to provide reasonable protection against harmful interference when the equipment is operated in a commercial environment.

This equipment generates, uses, and can radiate radio frequency energy and, if not installed and used in accordance with installation guidelines, may cause harmful interference to radio communications. Operation of this equipment in a residential area is likely to cause harmful interference, in which case the user will be required to correct the interference at his own expense.

Installation

NOTE: See "Multiple section sign assembly and wiring" on page 16 for specific information on sign assembly and wiring.

Mechanical installation

Overview

Because every sign installation is unique, there is no single procedure for mounting AlphaEclipse RoadStar signs. However, sign sections must be supported (affixed to superstructure able to withstand live loads and comply with all national and local codes) prior to assembling the sections or opening the doors, otherwise sign may tip causing serious injury. Additionally, sign parts could sustain damage if the doors are opened and the sign is not fully off the ground. Failure to comply will void the sign's warranty.

This section is only intended as a guide.

All installations, superstructure designs, and connections must be designed and approved by a qualified structural engineer. Call Adaptive Micro Systems at 1-800-558-7022 for contact information for structural engineering consultants.

- Drill holes as needed in the sign's steel framework for fasteners. *Drilling holes in any of the excluded areas will void the sign's warranty.* When drilling holes, follow these guidelines:
 - Connections must be analyzed by a structural engineer.
 - Dissimilar metals must be isolated to avoid galvanic corrosion.
- Any area on the sign's frame that had paint removed during mounting must be recoated with paint that is UL recognized to standard UL-1332, category DTOV2. Failure to repaint the area will result in accelerated corrosion of the sign's structure. Adaptive Micro Systems is not responsible for any failure in the sign's structure because of this. Failure to comply will void the sign's warranty.

Support structure design

The design of a sign's support structure depends on a number of factors:

- mounting methods
- building codes
- foundation
- sign size
- sign weight
- sign height
- wind loading
- seismic loading

Ventilation requirements

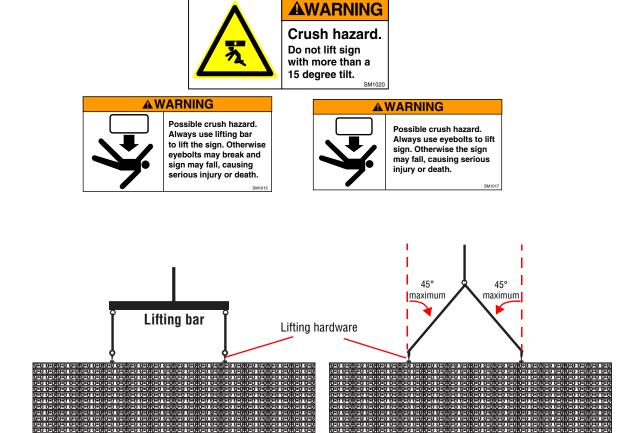
If the sign is mounted to a solid surface like a wall, then nothing must block the space between the top, bottom, and sides of the sign and the solid surface. Allow 6-inches of space (minimum) between the sign and any solid surface.

To avoid heat build-up and depending on sign size, allow more space at the back of the sign to provide ample air flow. Fans can be used to supplement natural air flow. Shading the back of the sign will enhance thermal performance.

Lifting the sign

Use a lifting bar adjusted to the width of the lifting hardware on the sign to raise the sections. After mounting the sign sections, remove the lifting hardware or corrosion to the sign may occur.

NOTE: Sign sections must be supported (affixed to superstructure able to withstand live loads and comply with all national and local codes) prior to assembling the sections or opening the doors, otherwise sign may tip causing serious injury.



RECOMMENDED

NOT RECOMMENDED

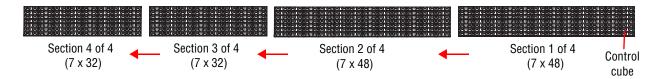
Multiple section sign assembly and wiring

Large AlphaEclipse RoadStar signs are shipped from the factory in multiple sections.

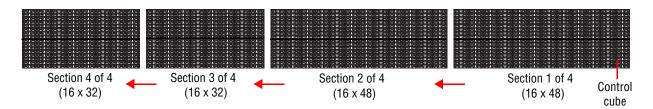
Multiple section signs are assembled as follows:

NOTE: Always begin numbering from the section with the control cube to the left, as viewed from the front of the sign. See "Identifier label" on page 12 for more information.

Example of a one-line, 7 x 160 size sign:



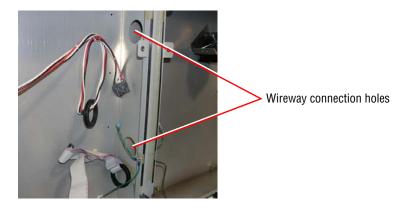
Example of a two-line, 16 x 160 size sign:



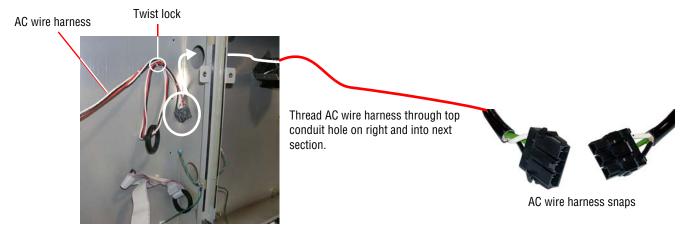
- 1. Prior to mounting each section to a superstructure able to support the sign section weights, read the identifier label on each sign section to determine section location. See "Identifier label" on page 12. Make sure the sign sections are mounted flush and level with one another.
- 2. Remove power from the sign. See "Internal view" on page 8 for location of the power switches. *Note that on a two-line sign, both switches must be in the off position to remove power from the sign.*



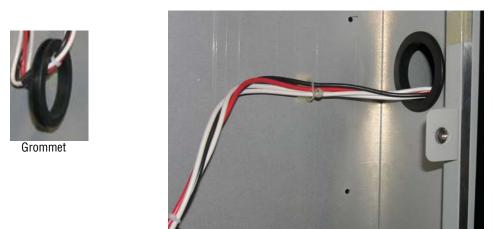
- 3. Open the sign sections. See "How to open a section door" on page 35.
- 4. Remove the stickers covering the wireway connection holes.



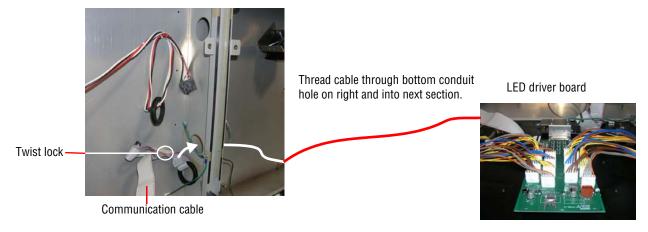
5. Starting with the left-most section, unclip the twist lock securing the AC wire harness. Thread the AC wire harness through the top wireway connection hole on the right and snap it into the next section's wireway harness. Repeat for all sections as necessary:



6. Affix the grommet to the top wireway connection hole.



7. Starting with the left-most section, unclip the twist lock securing the communication cable. Thread the communication cable (red-lined edge up) through the bottom wireway connection hole on the right and attach it to the next section's LED driver board. Repeat for all sections as necessary:



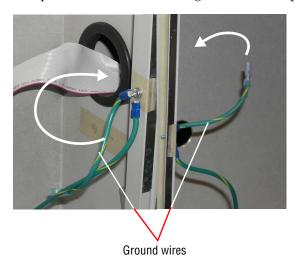
8. Affix the grommet to the bottom wireway connection hole.



Grommet



9. *Starting with the left-most section,* thread the ground wire through the bottom wireway connection hole on the right and snap it into the next section's ground wire. Repeat for all sections.



Thread the ground wire through bottom conduit hole on right and into next section.

Temperature probe mounting (optional)

When properly installed, the temperature probe will indicate accurate temperature. The best location for the temperature probe is on the display or the display structure.

NOTE: Using the supplied 25-foot temperature probe cable (pn 7122-0401, 22 AWG), there is a maximum distance of 250 feet between the temperature probe and the sign. However, you can extend distance and potentially find a better mounting location by changing the cable gauge. Contact Technical Support for more information.

For two or more signs connected as Master/Secondary Master or Master/Slave, the temperature probe can be connected to either sign.

Do

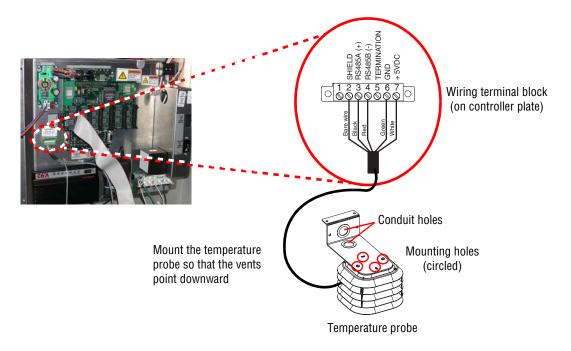
- Choose a location with the following criteria:
 - Air movement is not restricted by nearby walls or other obstructions.
 - The mounting background is light-colored and not dark-colored.
 - The location is above vegetation and not above asphalt or blacktop.
 - The location is on the north side of a building to provide protection from the sun.
- Shield the probe from the effect of the direct sun, reflected heat, or any nearby sources of heat, such as chimneys, lamps, vents, or HVAC ducts.
- If the temperature probe will be mounted to a heat-conducting surface, like metal, prevent the temperature probe's case from conducting heat from this surface by placing a non-heat conducting material, like a wood board, between the surface and the probe.
- Mount the temperature probe at least 6 feet off the ground.
- Mount the temperature probe at least one foot below the eave of a protected overhang so convection currents (rising hot air flow) are not trapped around the temperature probe. Also, make sure convection currents are not blocked by the mounting plates.
- Mount the probe so that the vents face downward.
- Hand-tighten the mounting screws so as not to strip them.

Do not

- Mount the temperature probe along the top of the sign.
- Mount the temperature probe near sprinklers and water fountains.
- Run the temperature probe cable and the sign's power wires through the same conduit.

Installation

- 1. Mount the temperature probe with the vents pointing downward using the mounting holes OR the conduit holes on the bracket.
- Run the temperature probe to the appropriate terminal block in the control cube.NOTE: The temperature probe cable and the sign's power wires must be run in different conduits.
- 3. Connect the temperature probe cable to the wireway terminal block as shown below.



Electrical installation

Electrical installation must only be attempted by a qualified electrician. Electrical connection must comply with all applicable national and local codes.





Guidelines for electrical installation

- On a two-line sign, both power switches must be in the off position to remove power from the sign. See "Internal view" on page 8 for location of the power switches.
- Inspect all internal sign cabling for proper connection and seating.
- All power wiring must be from circuit breaker-protected lines.
- A two-pole disconnect device must be installed in the building wiring for each branch circuit supplying the sign.
- The sign must be properly grounded according to the applicable codes (for example, NEC Article 250 and 600, and IEEE 1100-1999).
- Run separate conduits for signal wires (for example, RS232, RS485) and for power wires. However, fiber optic wire may be run in the same conduit with power wires.
- All electrical connections must be watertight.
- Use minimum 80° C copper wire only. Utiliser uniquement un fil en cuivre pouvant supporter 80° C minimum.
- Torque terminals to a minimum of 7 in/lbs and a maximum of 10 in/lbs. Serrer les bornes à 0,79 N/m minimum, mais pas à plus de 1,13 N/m.

Run power to the sign

- 1. Run power to the sign using waterproof conduit.
 - DO drill holes for power entry at the back of the control cube where indicated by a label.
 - DO NOT drill additional conduit holes in the right side of the sign. The wiring will interfere with the door hinge.
 - DO NOT drill additional conduit holes through the controller plate in the control cube.
 - DO NOT drill additional conduit holes along the bottom of the cube, note that water may pool there.
 - DO NOT route power and communication wires out of the cube door and around the side of the sign;
 the wires will be damaged when the door is closed.
 - DO NOT route power and communication wires in the same conduit (*unless the communication wires are fiber optic*).

Adaptive Explains

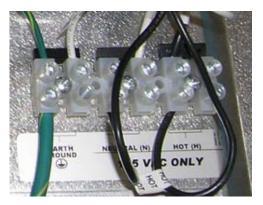
Why is it necessary to always run two conduits to a sign?

It is *not* always necessary. Two conduits are only necessary when communication wire, like RS485 wire, is run to a sign from a computer or from another sign. In these cases, one conduit would contain the sign's power wires and the other conduit the communication wires.

If power and communication wires are put in the same conduit, there is a chance the communication wires might pick up electrical interference from the power wires. For example, when a live power cord is placed next to a stereo speaker wire, the interference from this cord may cause the speaker to hum. In the case of a sign, this same effect could disrupt messages sent to the display.

On the other hand, *fiber optic cable* and power wires can share the same conduit because fiber optic cable is immune to electrical interference.

2. Connect each power circuit to the appropriate wireway power terminal on the controller plate (example below):



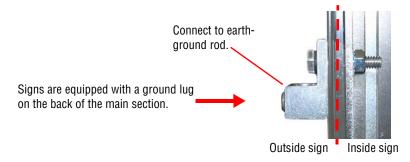
Ground the sign

The sign must be properly grounded in order to provide three types of protection:

• Ground fault protection (see page 23) — The sign must be wired to provide a permanent, low impedance pathway to carry sign ground fault current. This is necessary in order to quickly clear a sign ground fault by opening the power circuit to the sign.

Earth grounding a sign through some type of ground rod bonded to the sign is not sufficient ground fault protection.

- Lightning strike protection (see page 24) A sign must be earth grounded either through an existing ground rod or separate ground rod(s) bonded to the sign (see NEC article 250.32).
- Electronic equipment protection (see page 24) An improperly wired sign could radiate electromagnetic fields (EMF) that may damage or interfere with electronic equipment in or near the sign (see NEC Article 250.6).

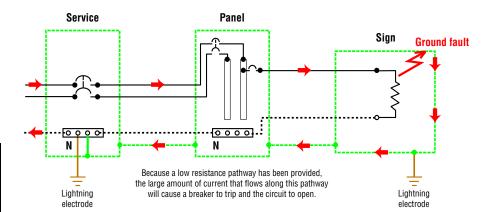


One of the wireway grounding points should be connected to earth ground (for example, a grounding rod).

Ground fault protection

Sign with Ground Fault Protection

= ground fault current path



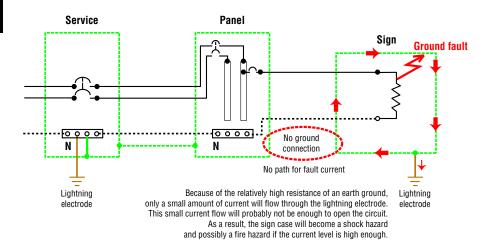
A "ground fault" protected circuit is different from a "ground fault interrupt" protected circuit.

A sign *should* be ground fault protected as shown.

However, a sign *should not* be connected to a ground fault interrupt (GFI) protected circuit.

Sign without Ground Fault Protection

= ground fault current path



Adaptive Explains

What is a ground fault?

It's when a "hot" wire *unintentionally* makes contact with metal, like an electrical outlet box or the case of a sign. If a sign is wired properly, a circuit breaker will trip (or "open") because too much electrical current is flowing. The ground fault will have to be corrected before the circuit breaker can be closed.

How do you protect against ground faults?

Provide a ground fault current path with so *little* resistance (basically just the resistance of the power wires) that a *luge* amount of current tries to flow. For example, imagine a sign is powered by 120V and is connected to a 20 ampere circuit. If this sign tries to draw more than 20 amps of current, the circuit breaker will trip and the circuit will open. Let's say that this sign is 300 feet away from its power source and that the total resistance of this wire is 0.4 ohms. Using Ohm's Law, the fault current = 120V divided by 0.4 ohms = 300 amps! This amount of current will cause the circuit breaker to open very quickly — removing the shock threat.

Why can't lightning rods be used to protect against ground faults?

A lightning rod (or earth ground) may have too *much* resistance and so not enough current will flow through it to cause a circuit breaker to open. For example, imagine an earth ground has a resistance of 10 ohms, which is low. Using Ohm's Law again, the fault current = 120V divided by 10 ohms = 12 amps. This is not enough current to cause the 20 amp circuit breaker to open. This means the ground fault would not be cleared and dangerous levels of current would be present on the sign's case *and* near the ground rod itself.

Lightning strike protection

A sign bonded to an earth ground has a means of dissipating the high voltage and current from a lightning strike. The resistance of the grounding electrode must be as low as possible. However, damage can still occur to a sign's electronic equipment from lightning voltage transients.

Though some surge protection is incorporated into a sign, to protect a sign from high-voltage lightning transients, surge protectors need to be installed at the panelboards (see NEC Article 280 and 284).

Electronic equipment protection

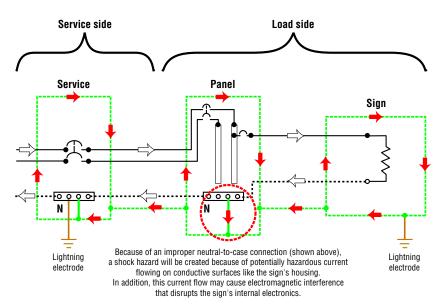
A common cause for the failure of sensitive electronic equipment is the presence of objectionable current (also called objectionable neutral current) on grounding and bonding paths.

Objectionable neutral current can be caused by:

- Errors in installation wiring
- Improper neutral-to-case bonds (illustrated below)

Objectionable Neutral Current caused by Improper Neutral-to-Case Bond

⇒ = normal current path
⇒ = objectionable neutral current path



- Equipment-grounding conductor used to carry neutral current This situation arises when no separate grounding wire is present when connecting power to a sign. NEC Article 250.32(B)(2) *does* permit a neutral-ground bond to be used in a separate structure if all of the following three conditions are met:
 - (1) an equipment grounding connector is not run with the supply to the structure
 - (2) there are no continuous metallic paths bonded to the grounding system in both structures involved
 - (3) equipment ground-fault protection has not been installed on the common AC service

Adaptive does not recommend using the equipment-grounding connector to carry neutral current as permitted by NEC 250.32(B)(2) because it creates a potentially hazardous situation. For example, a future installer might connect cabling between the two structures and this could create a dangerous parallel current path.

Adaptive Explains

How can you tell if objectionable neutral current is present?

A microohm multimeter can be used to measure the voltage difference between the neutral and ground conductors. Though a difference of 0V is ideal, the voltage difference should not exceed 0.5V.

Networking

Up to four AlphaEclipse RoadStar signs can be connected together into a network (see "Sign-to-sign connections" on page 25).

Also, in order to display messages, a sign must be connected to a computer that is running AlphaNET software (see "Computer-to-sign connections" on page 28).

Sign-to-sign connections

Two or more signs can be set up as either

- Master/Secondary Master (page 26) two to four signs that can display a different message. While the
 same message could be sent to both signs, the messages may not appear at *exactly* the same time. Signs
 connected as Master/Secondary Master require a temperature probe be connected to *just* the Master sign
 in order to display the temperature on both.
- Master/Slave signs (page 27) all these signs display the same message at the same time. In this setup, one sign is configured as the Master and all the others as Slave signs.

Adaptive Explains

Does it matter if signs are set up as Master/Secondary Master or Master/Slave?

The most important difference between Master/Secondary Master and Master/Slave signs is that Master/Slave signs all display the same message at the exact same time. On the other hand, signs configured as Master/Secondary Master allow you to display a different message on each of the signs.

How are signs set up to be Master/Secondary Master or Master/Slave?

Signs are configured at the factory. Master/Secondary Master is normally the factory default.

Is there any way to tell if a sign is a Master, a Secondary Master, or a Slave sign by just looking at it?

Probably not without turning the sign off and then on again. When you do this, the word "Master", "Sec-Master" or "Slave" will appear in the sign's startup messages.

Also, there is a label on the back of the sign that indicates how the sign is configured.

Master/Secondary Master sign wiring

Overview

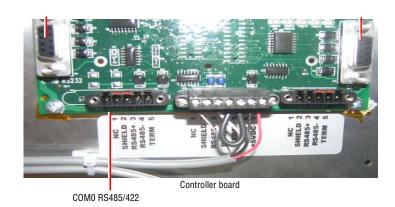
Signs connected as Master/Secondary Master can each display a unique message, unlike Master/Slave signs where all signs always display the same message at the same time. In a Master/Secondary Master sign pair, a message can be displayed on Master sign #1 by sending the message to serial address 1, or displayed on Secondary Master sign #2 by sending the message to serial address 2. Also, a message can be displayed on all Master signs by broadcasting the message to serial address 0.

The wiring is connected between each sign's controller board and the terminal block located on the controller plate:

The controller board and wiring terminal block are located on the controller plate in the control cube. See "Internal view" on page 8.

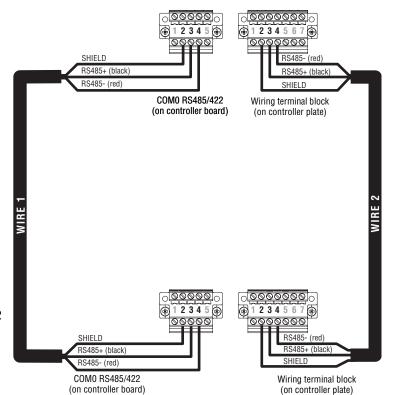


Wiring terminal block



Wiring

Master sign #1 - Serial address 1



For 3 or more signs, connect another wire from here

to the wiring terminal block in the next sign.

Secondary Master sign #2 – Serial address 2

26 Networking

For 3 or more signs, connect another wire from

here to COMO RS485/422 in the next sign.

Master/Slave sign wiring

Overview

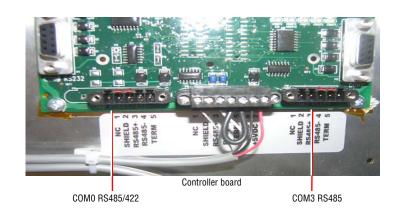
Signs connected as Master/Slave always display the same message at the same time, unlike Master/Secondary Master signs where unique messages can be displayed on each sign. For Master/Slave signs, all messages should be sent to either serial address 0 or to all of the sign's addresses (in the example below, address 1 and 2).

The wiring is connected between each sign's controller board and the terminal block located on the controller plate:

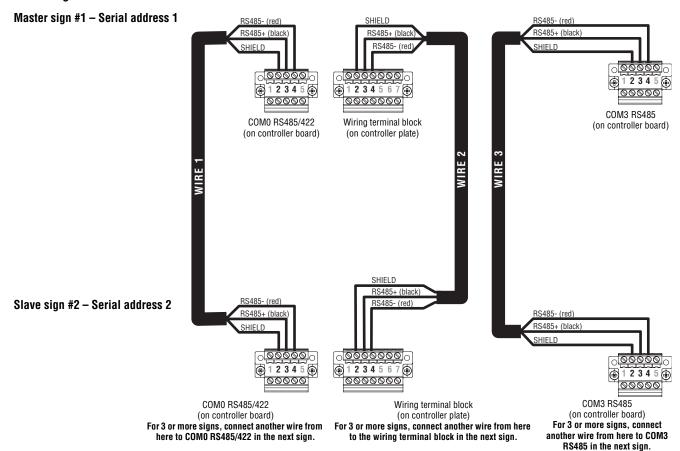
The controller board and wiring terminal block are located on the controller plate in the control cube. See "Internal view" on page 8.



Wiring terminal block



Wiring



Computer-to-sign connections

In order to display messages, a sign must be connected to a computer that is running AlphaNET software. (This computer is referred to as the "messaging computer".)

There are a number of ways to connect the messaging computer to a sign:

• RS485 wire (page 29) — using RS485 plenum wire (pn 7124-0203), a sign can be wired to a computer that could be up to 4000 feet away from the sign.

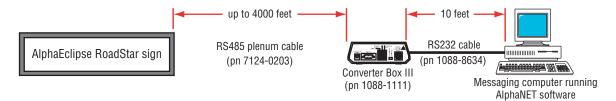
Ordinary wire, phone wire, CAT 5 wire, and so on must NOT be used in place of Adaptive's RS485 plenum wire.

- Modem (page 30) by placing a modem inside a sign (factory installed) and attaching another modem to the messaging computer, messages are sent to a sign through ordinary phone lines.
- Fiber optic (page 31) using a fiber optic mini-modem inside a sign (factory installed) and another mini-modem connected to the messaging computer, a sign can be connected to a computer that could be up to 2 miles away from the sign. Fiber optic cable is immune to electrical interference so the cable can be placed in the same conduit as the power wires.
- Wireless transceiver (page 32) for this option, one wireless transceiver is placed inside the sign (called the "Receive" unit which is factory installed) and another transceiver (called the "Master") is connected to the messaging computer. Wireless transceivers can connect to a sign up to 2 miles away. (Actual distance can vary greatly depending on the local environment, obstructions, electrical interference, and so on.)

RS485 wire computer-to-sign connection

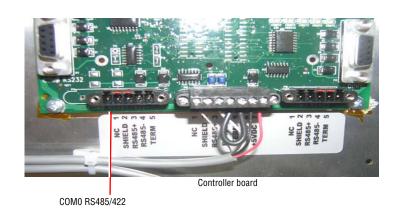
Overview

In order to display messages on a sign, the messaging computer must be connected to the sign, such as with a Converter Box III.



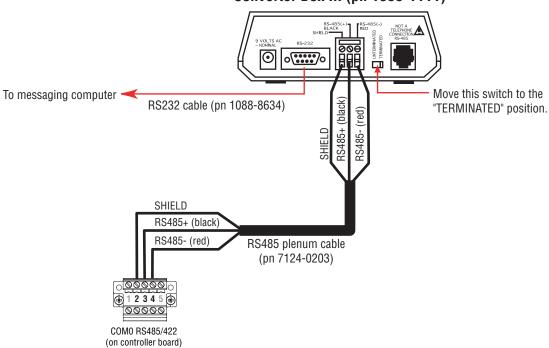
The wiring is connected from the controller board to the converter box:

The controller board is located on the controller plate in the control cube. See "Internal view" on page 8.



Wiring



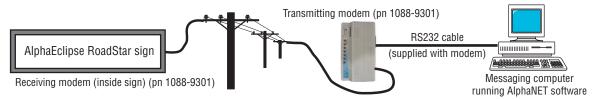


Modem computer-to-sign connection

Overview

In order to display messages on a sign, the messaging computer must be connected to the sign, such as with a pair of telephone modems (a Transmitting modem attached to the messaging computer and a Receiving modem attached to a sign).

Modems can connect to a sign that is almost anywhere. However, a sign must have its own phone line.



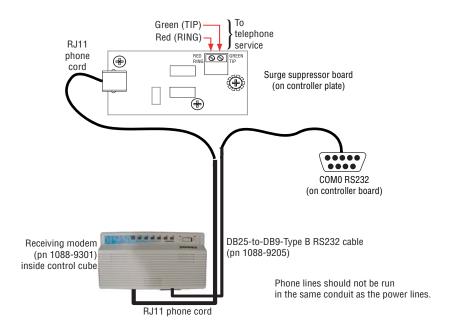
The wiring is connected from the controller board and the surge suppressor board to the modem:

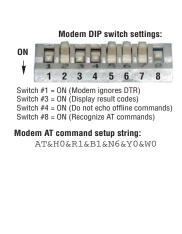
The controller board is located on the controller plate in the control cube. See "Internal view" on page 8.

Note: The surge suppressor board is also located on the controller plate immediately to the right of the modem.



Wiring



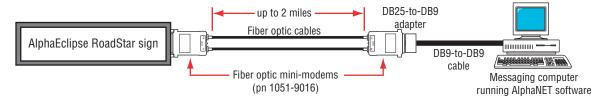


Fiber optic computer-to-sign connection

Overview

In order to display messages on a sign, the messaging computer must be connected to the sign, such as with fiber optic modems.

Fiber optic modems allow the messaging computer to connect to a sign up to 2 miles away from the computer. The fiber optic modems send data over an optical RS232 connection.



The wiring is connected from the controller board and the regulator board to the fiber optic mini modem:

The controller board and the regulator board are located on the controller plate in the control cube. See "Internal view" on page 8.

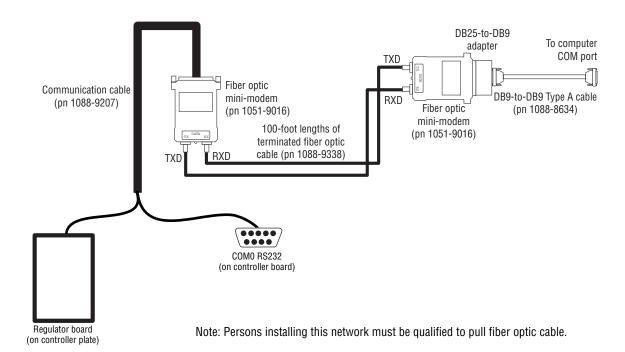


Regulator board



Controller board

Wiring



Wireless transceiver computer-to-sign connection (Locus)

Overview

In order to display messages on a sign, the messaging computer must be connected to the sign, such as with a pair of wireless transceivers (a Master transceiver attached to the messaging computer and a Receive transceiver attached to a sign).

Wireless transceivers can connect to a sign that is up to 2 miles away. (Actual distance depends on the local environment, obstructions, electrical interference, and so on.

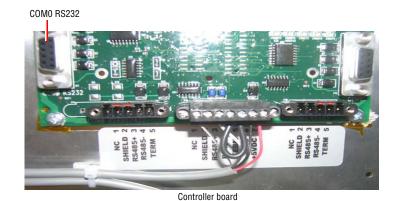


The wiring is connected from the controller board and the regulator board to the transceiver:

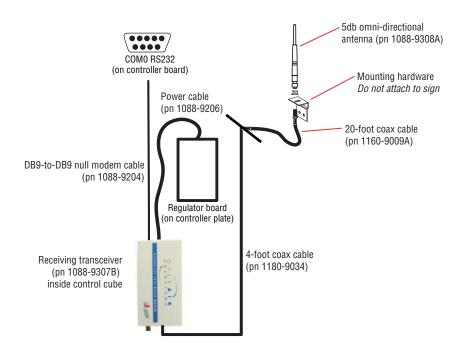
The controller board and the regulator board are located on the controller plate in the control cube. See "Internal view" on page 8.



Regulator board



Wiring



Wireless transceiver computer-to-sign connection (Alpha RF900)

Overview

In order to display messages on a sign, the messaging computer must be connected to the sign, such as with a pair of wireless transceivers (a server transceiver attached to the messaging computer and a client transceiver attached to a sign).

Alpha RF900 transceivers have an indoor transmission range of 300 to 500 feet and an outdoor range of 3500 feet line-of-site.

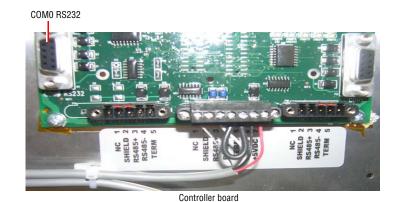


The wiring is connected from the controller board and the regulator board to the transceiver:

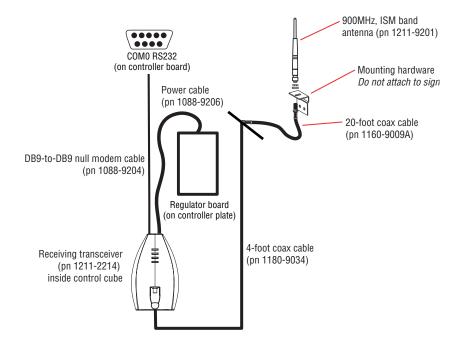
The controller board and the regulator board are located on the controller plate in the control cube. See "Internal view" on page 8.



Regulator board



Wiring



Serial address of a sign

The serial address of a sign is a number used to identify one sign from another when messages are sent.

Each AlphaEclipse is factory programmed with a serial address. Though a sign's address can be changed, it is usually not necessary or desirable to do so.

To determine a sign's serial address, do one of the following:

- Remove power to the sign and then reapply power a series of startup messages will appear on the sign. One of these messages will identify the sign's serial address and another whether a sign is a Master, Secondary Master, or a Slave sign.
- Check the back of the main section of the sign for a label indicating the sign's serial address and whether a sign is a Master, Secondary Master, or a Slave sign:



How to open a section door

All AlphaEclipse RoadStar sign sections open from the front:

1. Remove power from the sign. See "Internal view" on page 8 for location of the power switches. Note that on a two-line sign, both switches must be in the off position to remove power from the sign.



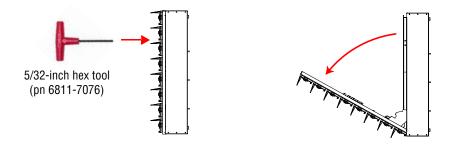
2. Locate the door locks in each door that is to be removed:

Door locks (circled)



Front of door

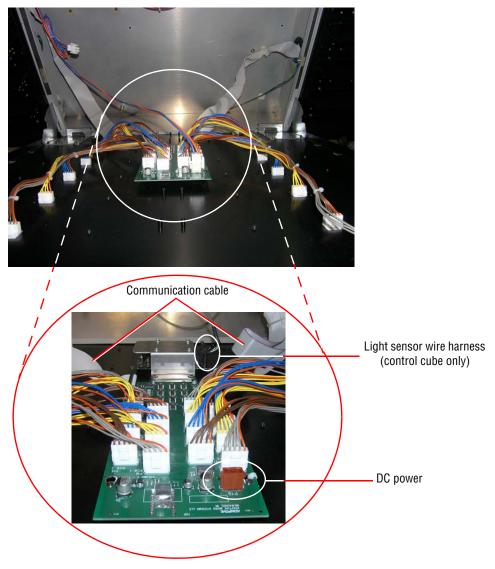
3. Use a 5/32-inch hex tool to open each door lock. Turn counterclockwise to open the latch. Then open the door by pulling it toward you:



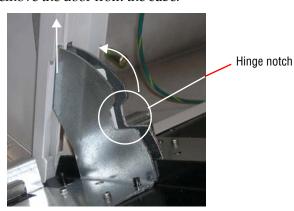
Open the door slowly to prevent damage to internal components.

A section door *must* be put back into the *same* location from where it was removed.

4. Disconnect the communication cable, DC power, and the light sensor wire harness (control cube only) from the back of the door:



5. Remove the door from the cube.

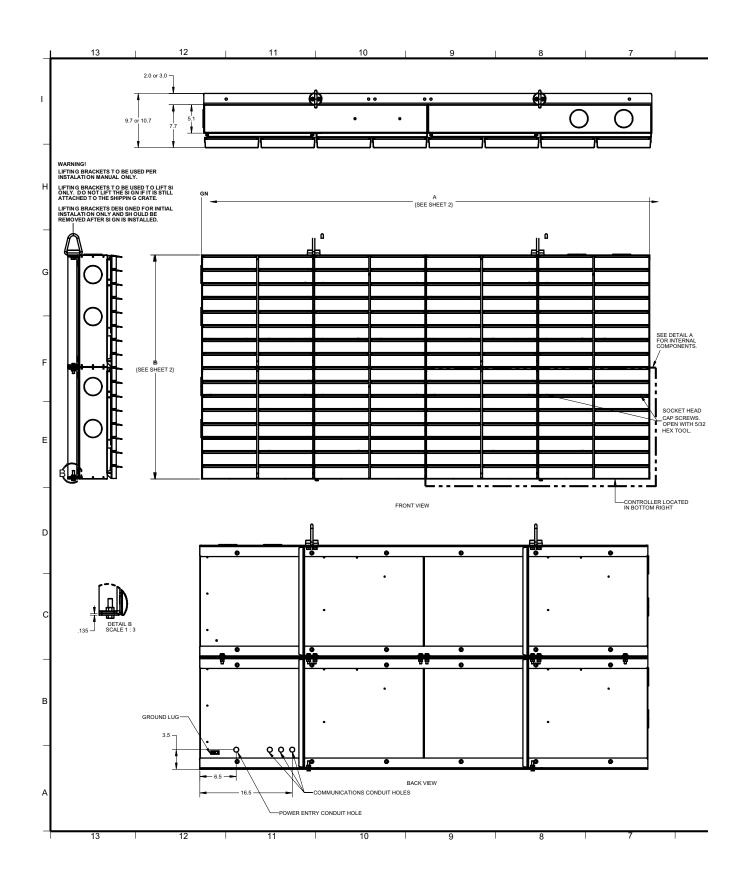


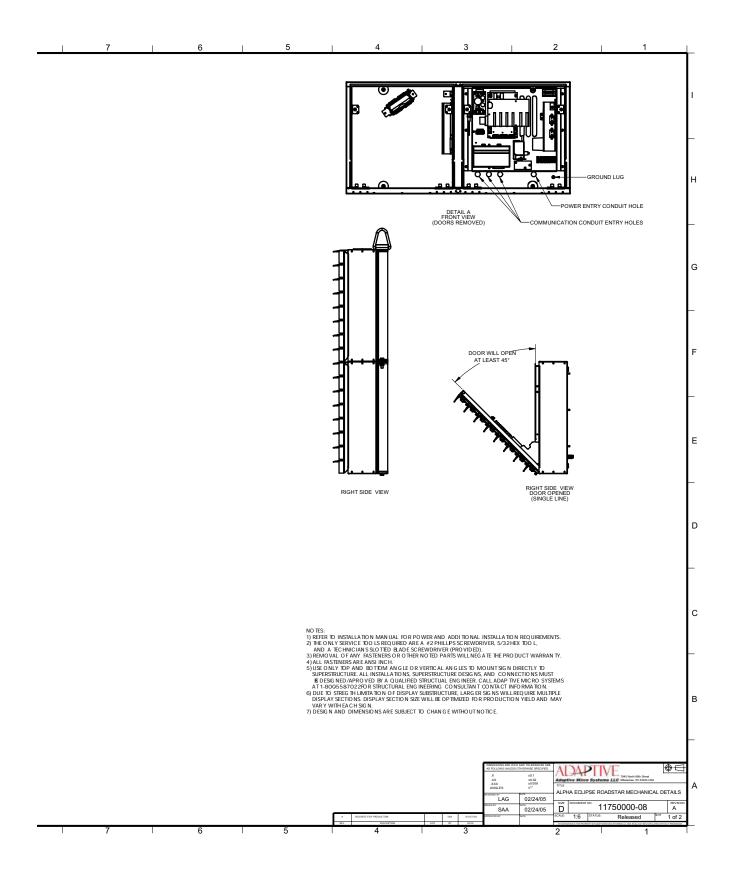
NOTE: Keep fingers clear of hinge notch when opening, removing, or closing door to avoid pinching.

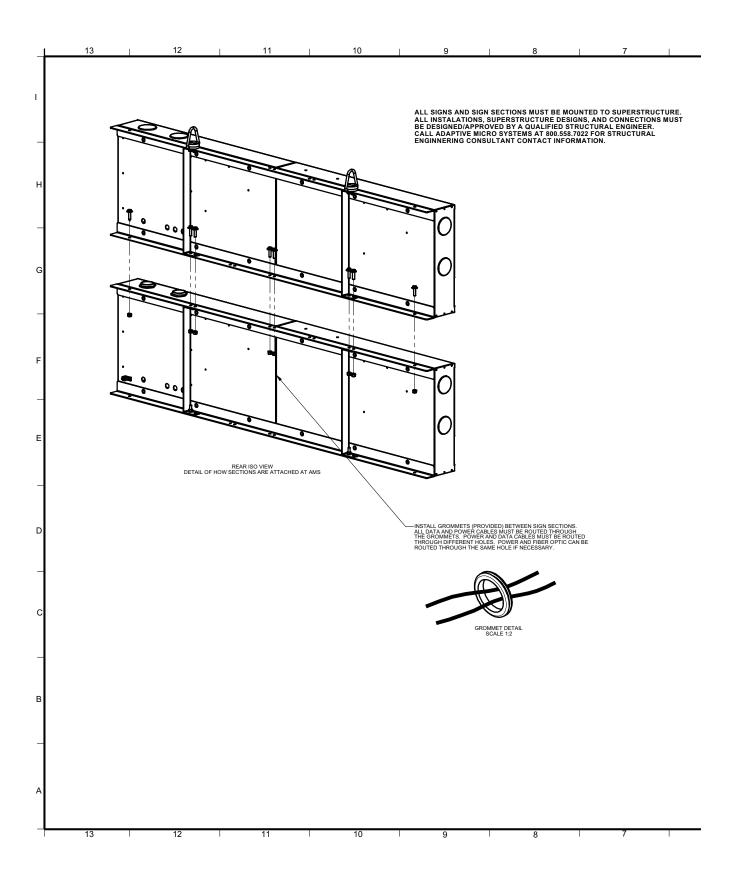
- Rotate the door forward until the hinge notch lines up with the side of the cube.
- · Lift the door straight up.
- Rotate the door away from you.
- · Pull the door out.

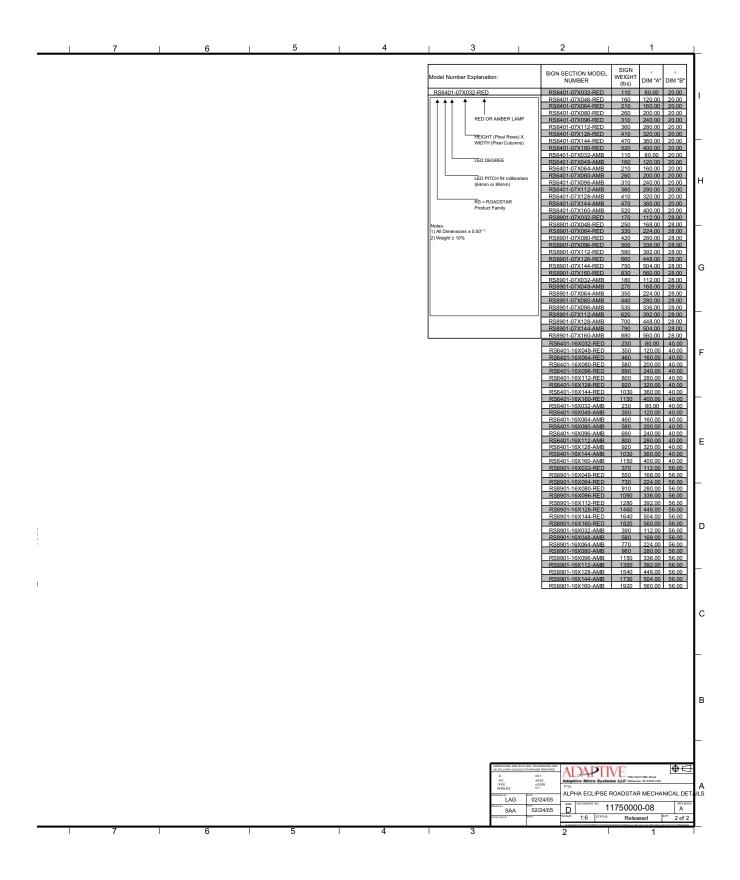
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Assembly drawings









Technical specifications

One-line, red, 17.5-inch character

Model number	Rows	Cols	Pitch (inches)	LED display assembly	LED driver assembly	Power supply	Internal cooling fan	Fan thermostat	On/Off switch	Rated input voltage (volts)	Rated input frequency (HZ)	Rated input current (115V)	Rated input current (230V)	Rated input power (watts)	Width x Height x Depth (inches)	Watt density (approximate) (watts per cubic foot)	Weight (nearest 10 pound increment)
RS6401-07x032-RED	7	32	2.5	56	4	2	2	2	1	115 - 230	50/60	2.86	1.49	329.23	80x20x10.0	64.6	110
RS6401-07x048-RED	7	48	2.5	84	6	3	3	2	1	115 - 230	50/60	4.08	2.12	469.20	120x20x10.0	61.4	160
RS6401-07x064-RED	7	64	2.5	112	8	4	4	2	1	115 - 230	50/60	5.30	2.75	609.17	160x20x10.0	59.8	210
RS6401-07x080-RED	7	80	2.5	140	10	5	5	2	1	115 - 230	50/60	6.51	3.39	749.14	200x20x10.0	58.8	260
RS6401-07x096-RED	7	96	2.5	168	12	6	6	2	1	115 - 230	50/60	7.73	4.02	889.11	240x20x10.0	58.2	310
RS6401-07x112-RED	7	112	2.5	196	14	7	7	2	1	115 - 230	50/60	8.95	4.66	1029.09	280x20x10.0	57.7	360
RS6401-07x128-RED	7	128	2.5	224	16	8	8	2	1	115 - 230	50/60	10.17	5.29	1169.06	320x20x10.0	57.4	410
RS6401-07x144-RED	7	144	2.5	252	18	9	9	2	1	115 - 230	50/60	11.38	5.92	1309.03	360x20x10.0	57.1	470
RS6401-07x160-RED	7	160	2.5	280	20	10	10	2	1	115 - 230	50/60	12.60	6.56	1449.00	400x20x10.0	56.9	520

Two-line, red, 17.5-inch character

Model number	Rows	Cols	Pitch (inches)	LED display assembly	LED driver assembly	Power supply	Internal cooling fan	Fan thermostat	On/Off switch	Rated input voltage (volts)	Rated input frequency (HZ)	Rated input current (115V)	Rated input current (230V)	Rated input power (watts)	Width x Height x Depth (inches)	Watt density (approximate) (watts per cubic foot)	Weight (nearest 10 pound increment)
RS6401-16x032-RED	16	32	2.5	128	8	4	4	2	2	115 - 230	50/60	5.78	3.00	664.37	80x40x10.0	65.2	230
RS6401-16x048-RED	16	48	2.5	192	12	6	6	2	2	115 - 230	50/60	8.45	4.39	971.91	120x40x10.0	63.6	350
RS6401-16x064-RED	16	64	2.5	256	16	8	8	2	2	115 - 230	50/60	11.13	5.78	1279.46	160x40x10.0	62.8	460
RS6401-16x080-RED	16	80	2.5	320	20	10	10	2	2	115 - 230	50/60	13.80	7.17	1587.00	200x40x10.0	62.3	580
RS6401-16x096-RED	16	96	2.5	384	24	12	12	2	2	115 - 230	50/60	16.47	8.56	1894.54	240x40x10.0	62.0	690
RS6401-16x112-RED	16	112	2.5	448	28	14	14	2	2	115 - 230	50/60	19.15	9.95	2202.09	280x40x10.0	61.8	800
RS6401-16x128-RED	16	128	2.5	512	32	16	16	2	2	115 - 230	50/60	21.82	11.34	2509.63	320x40x10.0	61.6	920
RS6401-16x144-RED	16	144	2.5	576	36	18	18	2	2	115 - 230	50/60	24.50	12.73	2817.17	360x40x10.0	61.5	1030
RS6401-16x160-RED	16	160	2.5	640	40	20	20	2	2	115 - 230	50/60	27.17	14.12	3124.71	400x40x10.0	61.4	1150

One-line, amber, 17.5-inch character

Model number	Rows	Cols	Pitch (inches)	LED display assembly	LED driver assembly	Power supply	Internal cooling fan	Fan thermostat	On/Off switch	Rated input voltage (volts)	Rated input frequency (HZ)	Rated input current (115V)	Rated input current (230V)	Rated input power (watts)	Width x Height x Depth (inches)	Watt density (approximate) (watts per cubic foot)	Weight (nearest 10 pound increment)
RS6401-07x032-AMB	7	32	2.5	56	4	2	2	2	1	115 - 230	50/60	4.33	2.23	497.55	80x20x10.0	97.7	110
RS6401-07x048-AMB	7	48	2.5	84	6	3	3	2	1	115 - 230	50/60	6.29	3.24	723.01	120x20x10.0	94.6	160
RS6401-07x064-AMB	7	64	2.5	112	8	4	4	2	1	115 - 230	50/60	8.25	4.25	948.47	160x20x10.0	93.1	210
RS6401-07x080-AMB	7	80	2.5	140	10	5	5	2	1	115 - 230	50/60	10.21	5.26	1173.93	200x20x10.0	92.2	260
RS6401-07x096-AMB	7	96	2.5	168	12	6	6	2	1	115 - 230	50/60	12.17	6.27	1399.39	240x20x10.0	91.6	310
RS6401-07x112-AMB	7	112	2.5	196	14	7	7	2	1	115 - 230	50/60	14.13	7.28	1624.86	280x20x10.0	91.2	360
RS6401-07x128-AMB	7	128	2.5	224	16	8	8	2	1	115 - 230	50/60	16.09	8.29	1850.32	320x20x10.0	90.8	410
RS6401-07x144-AMB	7	144	2.5	252	18	9	9	2	1	115 - 230	50/60	18.05	9.30	2075.78	360x20x10.0	90.6	470
RS6401-07x160-AMB	7	160	2.5	280	20	10	10	2	1	115 - 230	50/60	20.01	10.31	2301.24	400x20x10.0	90.4	520

Two-line, amber, 17.5-inch character

Model number	Rows	Cols	Pitch (inches)	LED display assembly	LED driver assembly	Power supply	Internal cooling fan	Fan thermostat	On/Off switch	Rated input voltage (volts)	Rated input frequency (HZ)	Rated input current (115V)	Rated input current (230V)	Rated input power (watts)	Width x Height x Depth (inches)	Watt density (approximate) (watts per cubic foot)	Weight (nearest 10 pound increment)
RS6401-16x032-AMB	16	32	2.5	128	8	4	4	2	2	115 - 230	50/60	9.16	4.71	1052.90	80x40x10.0	103.4	230
RS6401-16x048-AMB	16	48	2.5	192	12	6	6	2	2	115 - 230	50/60	13.53	6.96	1556.04	120x40x10.0	101.9	350
RS6401-16x064-AMB	16	64	2.5	256	16	8	8	2	2	115 - 230	50/60	17.91	9.22	2059.18	160x40x10.0	101.1	460
RS6401-16x080-AMB	16	80	2.5	320	20	10	10	2	2	115 - 230	50/60	22.28	11.47	2562.32	200x40x10.0	100.6	580
RS6401-16x096-AMB	16	96	2.5	384	24	12	12	2	2	115 - 230	50/60	26.66	13.72	3065.46	240x40x10.0	100.3	690
RS6401-16x112-AMB	16	112	2.5	448	28	14	14	2	2	115 - 230	50/60	31.03	15.97	3568.61	280x40x10.0	100.1	800
RS6401-16x128-AMB	16	128	2.5	512	32	16	16	2	2	115 - 230	50/60	35.41	18.22	4071.75	320x40x10.0	99.9	920
RS6401-16x144-AMB	16	144	2.5	576	36	18	18	2	2	115 - 230	50/60	39.78	20.48	4574.89	360x40x10.0	99.8	1030
RS6401-16x160-AMB	16	160	2.5	640	40	20	20	2	2	115 - 230	50/60	44.16	22.73	5078.03	400x40x10.0	99.7	1150

One-line, red, 24.5-inch character

Model number	Rows	Cols	Pitch (inches)	LED display assembly	LED driver assembly	Power supply	Internal cooling fan	Fan thermostat	On/Off switch	Rated input voltage (volts)	Rated input frequency (HZ)	Rated input current (115V)	Rated input current (230V)	Rated input power (watts)	Width x Height x Depth (inches)	Watt density (approximate) (watts per cubic foot)	Weight (nearest 10 pound increment)
RS8901-07x032-RED	7	32	3.5	56	4	2	3	2	1	115 - 230	50/60	4.60	2.38	528.60	112x28x11.75	53.0	170
RS8901-07x048-RED	7	48	3.5	84	6	3	4	2	1	115 - 230	50/60	6.56	3.39	754.06	168x28x11.75	50.4	250
RS8901-07x064-RED	7	64	3.5	112	8	4	5	2	1	115 - 230	50/60	8.52	4.40	979.52	224x28x11.75	49.1	330
RS8901-07x080-RED	7	80	3.5	140	10	5	6	2	1	115 - 230	50/60	10.48	5.41	1204.98	280x28x11.75	48.3	420
RS8901-07x096-RED	7	96	3.5	168	12	6	7	2	1	115 - 230	50/60	12.44	6.42	1430.44	336x28x11.75	47.8	500
RS8901-07x112-RED	7	112	3.5	196	14	7	8	2	1	115 - 230	50/60	14.40	7.43	1655.91	392x28x11.75	47.4	580
RS8901-07x128-RED	7	128	3.5	224	16	8	9	2	1	115 - 230	50/60	16.36	8.44	1881.37	448x28x11.75	47.1	660
RS8901-07x144-RED	7	144	3.5	252	18	9	10	2	1	115 - 230	50/60	18.32	9.45	2106.83	504x28x11.75	46.9	750
RS8901-07x160-RED	7	160	3.5	280	20	10	11	2	1	115 - 230	50/60	20.28	10.46	2332.29	560x28x11.75	46.7	830

Two-line, red, 24.5-inch character

Model number	Rows	Cols	Pitch (inches)	LED display assembly	LED driver assembly	Power supply	Internal cooling fan	Fan thermostat	On/Off switch	Rated input voltage (volts)	Rated input frequency (HZ)	Rated input current (115V)	Rated input current (230V)	Rated input power (watts)	Width x Height x Depth (inches)	Watt density (approximate) (watts per cubic foot)	Weight (nearest 10 pound increment)
RS8901-16x032-RED	16	32	3.5	128	8	4	5	2	2	115 - 230	50/60	9.43	4.86	1083.95	112x56x11.75	54.3	370
RS8901-16x048-RED	16	48	3.5	192	12	6	7	2	2	115 - 230	50/60	13.80	7.11	1587.09	168x56x11.75	53.0	550
RS8901-16x064-RED	16	64	3.5	256	16	8	9	2	2	115 - 230	50/60	18.18	9.37	2090.23	224x56x11.75	52.4	730
RS8901-16x080-RED	16	80	3.5	320	20	10	11	2	2	115 - 230	50/60	22.55	11.62	2593.37	280x56x11.75	52.0	910
RS8901-16x096-RED	16	96	3.5	384	24	12	13	2	2	115 - 230	50/60	26.93	13.87	3096.51	336x56x11.75	51.7	1090
RS8901-16x112-RED	16	112	3.5	448	28	14	15	2	2	115 - 230	50/60	31.30	16.12	3599.66	392x56x11.75	51.5	1280
RS8901-16x128-RED	16	128	3.5	512	32	16	17	2	2	115 - 230	50/60	35.68	18.38	4102.80	448x56x11.75	51.4	1460
RS8901-16x144-RED	16	144	3.5	576	36	18	19	2	2	115 - 230	50/60	40.05	20.63	4605.94	504x56x11.75	51.3	1640
RS8901-16x160-RED	16	160	3.5	640	40	20	21	2	2	115 - 230	50/60	44.43	22.88	5109.08	560x56x11.75	51.2	1820

One-line, amber, 24.5-inch character

Model number	Rows	Cols	Pitch (inches)	LED display assembly	LED driver assembly	Power supply	Internal cooling fan	Fan thermostat	On/Off switch	Rated input voltage (volts)	Rated input frequency (HZ)	Rated input current (115V)	Rated input current (230V)	Rated input power (watts)	Width x Height x Depth (inches)	Watt density (approximate) (watts per cubic foot)	Weight (nearest 10 pound increment)
RS8901-07x032-AMB	7	32	3.5	56	4	2	3	2	1	115 - 230	50/60	6.34	3.27	728.53	112x28x11.75	73.0	180
RS8901-07x048-AMB	7	48	3.5	84	6	3	4	2	1	115 - 230	50/60	9.16	4.72	1053.30	168x28x11.75	70.4	270
RS8901-07x064-AMB	7	64	3.5	112	8	4	5	2	1	115 - 230	50/60	11.98	6.17	1378.08	224x28x11.75	69.0	350
RS8901-07x080-AMB	7	80	3.5	140	10	5	6	2	1	115 - 230	50/60	14.81	7.62	1702.86	280x28x11.75	68.2	440
RS8901-07x096-AMB	7	96	3.5	168	12	6	7	2	1	115 - 230	50/60	17.63	9.07	2027.64	336x28x11.75	67.7	530
RS8901-07x112-AMB	7	112	3.5	196	14	7	8	2	1	115 - 230	50/60	20.46	10.52	2352.42	392x28x11.75	67.3	620
RS8901-07x128-AMB	7	128	3.5	224	16	8	9	2	1	115 - 230	50/60	23.28	11.97	2677.20	448x28x11.75	67.1	700
RS8901-07x144-AMB	7	144	3.5	252	18	9	10	2	1	115 - 230	50/60	26.10	13.43	3001.98	504x28x11.75	66.8	790
RS8901-07x160-AMB	7	160	3.5	280	20	10	11	2	1	115 - 230	50/60	28.93	14.88	3326.76	560x28x11.75	66.7	880

Two-line, amber, 24.5-inch character

Model number	Rows	Cols	Pitch (inches)	LED display assembly	LED driver assembly	Power supply	Internal cooling fan	Fan thermostat	On/Off switch	Rated input voltage (volts)	Rated input frequency (HZ)	Rated input current (115V)	Rated input current (230V)	Rated input power (watts)	Width x Height x Depth (inches)	Watt density (approximate) (watts per cubic foot)	Weight (nearest 10 pound increment)
RS8901-16x032-AMB	16	32	3.5	128	4	4	5	2	2	115 - 230	50/60	13.38	6.88	1539.08	112x56x11.75	77.1	390
RS8901-16x048-AMB	16	48	3.5	192	12	6	7	2	2	115 - 230	50/60	19.73	10.14	2269.14	168x56x11.75	75.8	580
RS8901-16x064-AMB	16	64	3.5	256	16	8	9	2	2	115 - 230	50/60	26.08	13.40	2999.20	224x56x11.75	75.1	770
RS8901-16x080-AMB	16	80	3.5	320	20	10	11	2	2	115 - 230	50/60	32.43	16.66	3729.26	280x56x11.75	74.7	960
RS8901-16x096-AMB	16	96	3.5	384	24	12	13	2	2	115 - 230	50/60	38.78	19.92	4459.32	336x56x11.75	74.5	1150
RS8901-16x112-AMB	16	112	3.5	448	28	14	15	2	2	115 - 230	50/60	45.13	23.18	5189.38	392x56x11.75	74.3	1350
RS8901-16x128-AMB	16	128	3.5	512	32	16	16	2	2	115 - 230	50/60	51.47	26.43	5919.43	448x56x11.75	74.1	1540
RS8901-16x144-AMB	16	144	3.5	576	36	18	19	2	2	115 - 230	50/60	57.82	29.69	6649.49	504x56x11.75	74.0	1730
RS8901-16x160-AMB	16	160	3.5	640	40	20	21	2	2	115 - 230	50/60	64.17	32.95	7379.55	560x56x11.75	73.9	1920

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